



2002 NWS Drought Outlook Workshop

The National Weather Service is holding a one-day "**Drought Outlook**" product evaluation workshop to be held April 3, 2002 at the NWS training facility in Kansas City, Missouri, located just 5 minutes from the Kansas City airport. We seek feedback from the agricultural community on the scientific basis, interpretation, performance, possible and planned improvements, release times, etc. of our monthly Drought Outlook. The Drought Outlook provides general forecast guidance on drought trends out three and one half months from the monthly issuance date.

We are particularly interested in confirming speakers (15-20 minutes) from the following agricultural industries and customer bases:

- Policy makers
- Agribusiness, including producers and processors
- Commodities/futures
- Insurers
- Market advisory services/educators

The workshop will use Sonka and Changnon's "Midwestern Impacts of the 2000 Drought Forecasts" (2001) document as a centerpiece for discussions.

NWS speakers will explain the Drought Outlook including the history behind its origin, its scientific basis, interpretation, performance, planned improvements, access, and release times. Customers will discuss their use of the Drought Outlook, strengths, weaknesses, and changes and improvements they would like to be made to the product. The workshop will adjourn after a wrap-up general summary session with recommendations.

You can register for the workshop online at:

http://205.156.54.206/om/csd/droughtsub.html

or you can contact Mike Brewer at 301-713-1867, x123, or via email at:

Michael.J.Brewer@noaa.gov

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Agenda

8:15 Welcome/Workshop Overview 8:30 Objectives 8:45 Description of NWS Drought Outlook 9:45 Break DROUGHT FORECAST IMPACTS 10:00 Midwest Impacts of the 2000 Drought Forecasts COMMODITIES/FUTURES 11:25 Commodity Considerations 11:25 Commodities Comments LUNCH 11:45 Working Lunch (catered) CUSTOMER INTERFACE 1:30 AASC Perspective 1:30 AASC Perspective Central Region/WFO National Drought Mitigation Center Cimate Center 1:30 Value (September of Agriculture Central Region/WFO FEDERAL AGENCIES 2:30 U.S. Department of Agriculture POLICY MAKERS 1:40 Open Discussion/Summary 5:00 Adiourn Bob Leffler Bob Livezey Douglas LeComte Steve Sonka, University of Illinois Stan Changnon, Illinois State Water Survey Joe Victor, Allendale Bryce Anderson, Data Transition Network Keynote Speaker: Mark Sovoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center Kelly Redmond, Western Region Climate Center Jay Grymes, AASC Mike Hayes Mike Looney FEDERAL AGENCIES 2:30 U.S. Department of Agriculture Brad Rippey POLICY MAKERS 1:5 Western Governor's Association 3:45 Break WRAPUP 4:00 Open Discussion/Summary Bob Livezey		WELCOME AND NWS PRODUCT OVERVIEW		
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